

Warm and Dry

Seven days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending September 26, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. Clear skies and above normal temperatures were the rule across the State. The warm weather pushed crops towards maturity. The dry, sunny conditions also helped dry down corn and soybeans and were conducive to harvest progress. Temperatures ranged from 4 degree above normal in the southwest and south central Lower Peninsula to 11 degrees above normal in the western Upper Peninsula. The warm temperatures pushed most districts to near normal cumulative growing degree days. Precipitation for the week was virtually nonexistent across the State. Many areas reported being on the verge of too dry. The lack of moisture had some growers holding off on fall tillage and planting. Precipitation amounts ranged from none in five Lower Peninsula districts to 0.03 inches in the western Upper Peninsula. A farmer in the southwest commented, “The warm weather has helped the late planted corn mature.” Growers in the northeast echoed the sentiment, “This week was hot and dry. The warm weather was excellent for the corn crop. It really helped it mature.”

Field Crops

Warm temperatures across the State continued with soil moisture becoming short in most areas. The dry weather helped dry down late crops. **Hay** harvest continued. Third cutting neared completion. Fourth cutting progressed nicely. Dry conditions left some stands short. **Corn** progressed due to the warm weather and fields were drying rapidly. Corn harvest for silage continued. **Soybean** harvest was underway in some counties. **Dry bean** harvest was in full swing under dry conditions. **Sugarbeet** harvest was getting underway, but the crop is in need of a little rain. **Wheat** planting continued.

Soil moisture for week ending 09/26/04				
Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	24	49	26	1
Subsoil	15	43	41	1

Crop condition for week ending 09/26/04					
Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	6	17	35	34	8
Corn	4	12	36	36	12
Dry beans	4	16	34	36	10
Pasture	10	23	43	20	4
Soybeans	3	8	35	43	11

Fruit

Apple harvest progressed rapidly in the southwest due to a relatively light crop. Growers were picking Golden Delicious, Jonathans, and early Red Delicious to meet demand. In the southeast, apples have been abundant this year. The crop showed excellent quality, with good size and color. Many of the apple varieties were picking out normal to above normal. Pack out should be excellent. In the west central, Spys, Golden Delicious, Jonathans, and Empires were being harvested. So far in the Ridge area, early harvested apple varieties have had great color and excellent flavor. Maturity was running a bit behind average, but clear sunny days and cooler nights have led to excellent crop potential. In the northwest, apples were generally coming in late, with Gala ripening notably later than normal. It was a very challenging year for apple thinning due to cool weather during bloom and fruit set. So far the apple crop has been of high quality. Fall **raspberry** harvest continued in the southwest. Fruit rots, especially gray mold and blue mold, have been a problem for some growers. Concord **grape** harvest moved along rapidly in the southwest. Early sites have produced excellent sugar thanks to warm sunny days and a light crop load. In the southeast, grape berry moth damage was higher than normal. Japanese beetle has been increasing as a pest problem on grapes and other fruit crops each season. Visit Michigan State University Extension Service’s “Fruit Crop Advisory Team Alert” website at www.ipm.msu.edu/fruitCAT.htm for a complete summary of the 2004 fruit growing season.

Vegetables

Continued warm temperatures helped advance the maturity of a wide variety of vegetable crops across the State. Dry and warm temperatures made for good harvesting conditions, although many areas reported needing some moisture. Farmers continued to harvest both fresh market and processing **tomatoes**. Processing harvest was still in full swing in the southeast and growers were picking late fresh market plantings in several areas. **Potato** digging moved along, with harvest progress somewhat variable across districts. **Celery** harvest was almost three-fourths complete. Warm weather was conducive to large sizing in the crop. **Sweet corn** supply was good in the southeast, but growers reported some corn earworm damage. **Pumpkin** harvest was well underway in the southeast. Maturity was earlier than usual. In the southwest, **zucchini** harvest neared completion. In the southeast, **pepper** harvest was in full swing and the **onion** crop neared 75 percent harvested.

Crop progress for week ending 09/26/04				
Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, third cutting	81	76	87	86
All hay, fourth cutting	28	18	12	27
Apples, harvested	30	22	NA	NA
Corn, dough	93	87	99	99
Corn, dent	73	55	85	90
Corn, mature	28	10	32	50
Corn, harvested	1	0	2	5
Corn silage, harvested	53	19	66	69
Dry beans, dropping leaves	96	67	98	86
Dry beans, harvested	56	17	64	50
Potatoes, harvested	37	30	NA	NA
Soybeans, turning leaves	71	50	94	92
Soybeans, dropping leaves	39	15	68	68
Soybeans, harvested	5	0	4	8
Winter wheat, planted	28	9	26	20
Winter wheat, emerged	4	0	1	2

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 09/26/04 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2004	2003	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	81	45		1,788	2,045		0.04	0.70	1.31	19.08		
Marquette	82	49		1,708	1,974		0.00	0.84	1.69	18.88		
Stephenson	82	41		2,036	2,254		0.03	0.56	1.03	17.75		
Western UP	82	41	11	1,810	2,043	1,885	0.03	0.66	1.26	17.03	19.61	3.58
Cornell	77	45		1,827	2,166		0.00	0.58	1.38	18.65		
Sault St Marie	78	46		1,571	1,919		0.00	0.18	1.35	17.35		
Eastern UP	82	38	10	1,602	1,912	1,669	0.00	0.53	1.26	16.39	18.57	3.55
Beulah	85	44		2,151	2,243		0.00	0.12	0.54	20.82		
Lake City	83	36		2,065	2,112		0.00	0.26	0.78	17.40		
Old Mission	88	40		2,058	2,228		0.01	0.05	0.22	18.59		
Pellston	86	36		1,946	2,113		0.01	0.27	1.40	15.26		
Northwest	88	36	9	2,006	2,138	2,155	0.01	0.15	0.67	17.37	17.59	3.66
Alpena	86	41		2,031	2,094		0.00	0.06	0.36	15.07		
Houghton Lake	84	34		2,175	2,240		0.02	0.18	0.76	16.23		
Rogers City	85	40		2,001	2,202		0.01	0.20	0.74	17.72		
Northeast	87	34	8	2,065	2,199	2,083	0.01	0.18	0.70	16.22	17.52	3.47
Fremont	84	39		2,393	2,533		0.00	0.08	0.33	17.48		
Hart	84	39		2,243	2,372		0.00	0.39	0.57	18.92		
Muskegon	81	39		2,424	2,622		0.00	0.08	0.13	20.58		
West Central	84	39	6	2,310	2,451	2,354	0.00	0.23	0.36	20.39	17.68	3.19
Alma	85	37		2,518	2,537		0.00	0.10	0.36	20.55		
Big Rapids	85	37		2,354	2,315		0.00	0.24	0.45	20.19		
Central	85	37	6	2,458	2,423	2,429	0.00	0.12	0.36	19.99	18.45	3.09
Bad Axe	87	42		2,332	2,246		0.00	0.02	0.57	18.05		
Pigeon	88	42		2,308	2,234		0.01	0.03	0.57	19.08		
Saginaw	87	41		2,532	2,467		0.00	0.00	0.67	17.18		
Standish	86	38		2,275	2,207		0.00	0.00	0.75	18.08		
East Central	88	38	5	2,326	2,304	2,438	0.01	0.04	0.54	18.59	16.50	2.70
Fennville	86	43		2,455	2,500		0.00	0.18	0.32	14.97		
Grand Rapids	85	43		2,760	2,592		0.00	0.05	0.45	21.81		
Holland	85	39		2,566	2,570		0.00	0.11	0.17	15.61		
South Bend, IN	85	48		2,912	2,769		0.00	0.36	0.88	23.22		
Watervliet	86	43		2,650	2,529		0.00	0.97	1.21	23.52		
Southwest	87	37	4	2,646	2,594	2,657	0.00	0.42	0.64	21.09	18.98	3.26
Belding	85	45		2,503	2,464		0.01	0.03	0.58	22.18		
Coldwater	85	46		2,583	2,424		0.00	0.00	0.37	21.75		
Lansing	85	44		2,627	2,544		0.00	0.33	0.94	21.89		
South Central	86	41	4	2,616	2,554	2,609	0.00	0.21	0.59	22.04	18.66	2.79
Detroit	85	51		2,936	2,823		0.00	0.00	0.65	19.87		
Flint	85	42		2,674	2,657		0.00	0.22	0.70	18.52		
Romeo	86	45		2,658	2,481		0.00	0.02	1.48	23.38		
Tipton	89	44		2,636	2,522		0.00	0.00	0.43	18.06		
Toledo, OH	87	44		2,974	2,821		0.00	0.00	1.01	17.37		
Southeast	90	40	5	2,695	2,659	2,609	0.00	0.03	0.79	20.16	17.76	2.43

¹ Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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